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Message Text

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53
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 SS-15 L-02 NSC-05 /051 W
---------- 067590
P R 071110Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5021
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL ZURICH

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: EAIR, AU
SUBJECT: CIVIL AVIATION: TWA FLIGHTS TO VIENNA

REF: VIENNA 1899 (NOTAL)

1. AT LUNCH, MARCH 6, WITH MINISTER OF TRANSPORT LANC, ECONCOUNS MENTIONED PANAM/TWA SWAP AND EXPRESSED HOPE GOA WOULD PROCEED QUICKLY TO GRANT APPROVALS TO EFFECT SMOOTH INTRODUCTION OF TWA SERVICE. ECONCOUNS INFORMED MINISTER THAT MARCH 17 DATE HAD BEEN SET FOR US-AUSTRAIN CONSULTATIONS BUT URGED THAT OPERATING PERMIT BE GRANTED TO TWA SOONEST TO PERMIT CARRIER TO PROCEED WITH BASIC PREPARATIONS, ADVERTISING AND BOOKINGS. ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT CIVIL AIR OFFICE WOULD APPROVE SCHEDULES FILED BY TWA.

2. LANC HAD NOT YET HEARD ABOUT CONSULTATIONS DATE BUT APPEARED TO BE GENERALLY INFORMED ABOUT SITUATION, PARTICULARLY FIFTH FREEDOM ISSUE. HE OBSERVED THAT ALL COUNTRIES WERE COMPETING IN A SHRINKING MARKET AND THE "LITTLE ONES" LIKE AUSTRIA WERE BEING SQUEEZED BY LARGER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. HE MENTIONED THAT SITUA-
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TION WITH FRG PARTICULARLY TENSE SINCE LUFTHANSA APPAR-

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ENTLY UNWILLING TO PERMIT AUA TO INAUGURATE ITS VIENNA-DUSSELDORF SERVICE. WEST GERMANY, HE FELT, WAS LOOKING FOR WAYS AND MEANS TO OFFSET POSSIBLE LOSS OF BUSINESS BY LUFTANSA AT EXPENSE OF SMALLER EUROPEAN CARRIERS SUCH AS AUA. ECON COUNS REPLIED THAT THIS SITUATION NOT RELEVANT TO TWA'S NEW YORK-VIENNA SERVICE WHICH WOULD BE VIA SWITZERLAND RATHER THAN FRG. IN ANY CASE GOA WOULD HAVE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO AIR THESE MATTERS DURING FORTHCMOING CONSULTATIONS BUT THAT WE WOULD APPRECIATE FAST GOA ACTION ON PERMIT AND SCHEDULES FOR TWA. LANC PROMISED TO LOOK INTO MATTER, STATING APPROVAL OF SCHEDULES MIGHT BE EFFECTED ON A TEMPORARY BASIS AND WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO ANY AGREEMENTS REACHED DURING CONSULTATIONS.

3. COMMENT: LANC'S OBSERVATIONS ABOUT HASSLE WITH FRG FITS INTO CURRENT STRAINED ATMOSPHERE IN GOA'S CIVIL AIR RELATIONS WITH SEVERAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

WE KNOW SITUATION IS ALSO TENSE WITH UK (REPORTED VIENNA 1969).

4. THE MINISTER, A FORMER LEADER GRANTEE TO US, WAS FORTHRIGHT AND FRIENDLY AND EMBASSY HOPES HE WILL SUPPORT SMOOTH TRANSITION IN NEW YORK TO VIENNA SERVICE FROM PAN AM TO TWA. AT SAME TIME HIS COMMENTS ON FIFTH FREEDOM LEAVE LITTLE DOUBT IN OUR MINDS THAT AUSTRIANS WILL DIG IN THEIR HEELS ON THIS ISSUE. (END COMMENT) MOWINCKEL

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